



# Homework Policy

## Rationale:

Homework is a valuable part of a student's education. It is an integral part of the learning process and allows for the practice and reinforcement of classwork. Homework provides students with training in time management and organisational skills. It also encourages students to further develop the skills, confidence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study effectively. Homework should promote a responsible attitude to learning.

## The Purpose of Homework:

- is an essential part of learning.
- allows for practice and consolidation of learning done in class.
- helps students to plan and organise their time.
- establishes a habit of study and self-discipline that will be necessary for lifelong learning.
- enables students to research information and use resource.
- challenges able students.
- enables parents and guardians to be aware of what is being taught in school and to support the progress of their children.

## Homework is most beneficial when:

- it develops basic skills and extends classwork.
- it consolidates knowledge.
- teachers set homework that is appropriate to the age, level, and capabilities of the students.
- teacher expectations are well communicated.
- it is set on a regular basis and establishes a pattern of home study.
- it is corrected promptly and accurately.
- it is challenging and has a clear purpose.
- it extends learning and encourages independent study.

## Homework is a balance of:

- Questions from text/worksheets/projects
- Learning work i.e. knowing content and material taught in class
- Written work i.e. essays, diagrams, notes and answers that are given by the teacher to be presented in a copybook, journal etc.
- Reflections and corrections on a piece already completed.
- Revising a topic for a class test.
- Researching a topic online.
- Consulting books, newspapers, magazines.
- Watching news reports or documentaries.
- Visiting the library.
- Interviewing peers, parents and relatives.

## Suggestions for organising homework:

- All homework and related instructions should be carefully recorded in the Student Journal, the due date noted, and when the work is completed a tick should be entered in the assigned column.
- Ask questions, when necessary, to clarify the assignment requirements.



- When absent from class due to school activities ensure that set work is obtained.
- Ensure that all necessary books, copies are brought to each class.
- Find a quiet place and establish a homework routine; preferably have a desk that can be left set up.
- Design a personal homework timetable. This timetable should allow for short breaks as well as allocating some time for study and general revision.
- Try to avoid all obvious distractions, television, radio, mobile phone, social media etc.
- When possible, homework should be completed early in the evening rather than late at night.
- Try to complete homework on the night it is set, even though it may not be required immediately.
- Carefully plan the completion of long term projects preferably identifying intermediate goals and associated dates.
- Take notes when studying, highlight key areas, headings etc. These will be useful later for revision. • Where the homework involves solving problems, study the examples given in class first, before attempting the problems.
- When content such as vocabulary, grammar, definitions, diagrams or formulae have to be memorised regular self- testing is advised.
- Make sure all written work is neat, tidy and clearly legible.
- Allocate time for study and revision also.

#### **Guidelines for homework:**

- Junior years (Forms 1-3) 2 hours per night.
- Leaving cert foundation year (TY) 1-3 hours per night
- Senior years (Form 5&6) 3-4 hours per night. Weekend study and revision is also essential.

Revision should be ongoing throughout the year and is especially important at exam time.

The King's Hospital School provides a number of supports to encourage good homework / study among students, including:

- Rewards and incentives for good work
- Study Skills Workshops for all years.
- As previously highlighted, it is each student's responsibility to attempt their homework and to do so to the best of their ability.

To not do so may lead to invoking the school's Code of Behaviour.

#### **Sanctions:**

If homework is not completed and no note of explanation is submitted from a parent/ guardian sanctions may be imposed.

These will vary according to the severity of the situation.

The sanctions may include:

- Recording in Journal
- Extra work
- Demerits being assigned
- Remaining after class at an arranged time to do the work.
- Academic Detention -continuous breach of the Homework Policy may result in a student being placed on Academic Detention sanctioned by the Academic Head.